

Replaced by Article 34

PC  
CLAIMS

10 FEB 2005

What is claimed is:

1. A wheel shield comprising a textured outboard surface adapted to conform to an inboard surface of a wheel.
2. The wheel shield of claim 1, wherein the outboard surface comprises a plurality ridges.
3. The wheel shield of claim 1, wherein the shield comprises a center opening adapted to prevent the shield from being sandwiched between a wheel and a hub when mounted to a vehicle.
4. The wheel shield of claim 3, wherein the shield comprises a plurality of holes positioned to be adjacent to the web of a wheel when the shield is mounted to a vehicle such that it is adjacent to the wheel.
5. The wheel shield of claim 1, wherein the shield comprises a plurality of holes positioned to be adjacent to the web of a wheel when the shield is mounted to a vehicle such that it is adjacent to the wheel.
6. A combination of a wheel and wheel shield according to claim 5, wherein the wheel shield is fastened directly to the wheel by bolts or screws passing through the plurality of holes and into the web of the wheel.
7. A combination of a wheel and wheel shield according to claim 1, wherein the wheel comprises a web having a plurality of holes passing through it, the web is curved between the holes, and the wheel shield is positioned adjacent to the wheel such that the holes in the web are blocked by the shield and the shield and the solid portion of the web form at least one cavity, the combination comprising at least one ventilation opening formed by the wheel and wheel shield between the cavity and an opening in the web.
8. A method of forming the wheel shield of claim 1, comprising using a hydraulic press to cause a sheet of doubly corrugated material to conform to the shape of an inboard surface of a wheel.